



YACA News

Communicating with California Professionals in Corrections and Parole

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Governor Signs YACA Reorganization Bill

By **J.P. Tremblay**

Assistant Secretary
External Affairs, YACA

With Folsom Prison as a background, Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** started the transformation of California's prison system. On May 10, he signed SB 737 by Senator **Gloria Romero** that abolished the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency and creates the new Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"When I came into office we faced some major challenges in our corrections system. Today, we have come together to take an important step forward to confront those challenges and protect public safety," said Gov. Schwarzenegger. "Through our bipartisan effort, we have created the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, giving our corrections system the structure to make it more effective and accountable to the people. I look forward to continuing to work with Secretary **Roderick Hickman** and the Legislature to bring the remaining reforms to our prisons and prevent further crimes," said the Governor.

The changes, that take effect on July 1,

2005, are designed to streamline common operations used by the Departments of Corrections and Youth Authority, the Board of Prison Terms, the Commission

on Correctional Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Youth Authority Board and the Narcotic Addict Evaluation Authority. The objective is to create a more efficiently managed Agency, while keeping as its first objective -- public safety -- by placing greater emphasis on the rehabilitation of inmates and wards.

The department will utilize best practices-based programming, along with incarceration to meet the demands of public safety. The newly organized department will use common-sense programs with a proven track record of reducing recidivism in other states, while continuing to explore new ideas. The programs will focus in areas such as education -- academic and vocational; anger management, victim impact classes, and substance and alcohol abuse classes.

(Please see **Governor**, page two)



Gov. **Schwarzenegger** and Secretary **Hickman**, following a tour of Folsom Prison's China Hill, are flanked by Senators **Campbell**, **Alquist** and **Romero** (sponsors of SB 737); Assemblywoman **Runner**; Folsom's Acting Warden **Shephard**; CDC Director **Woodford** and CYA Director **Allen**, and members of the executive team.

Information Technology Teams Gather to Plan Consolidation of the Agency's IT Services

By **Merlin M. Ward**

Information Technology
Transition Manager

Information Technology staff primarily from the Sacramento and surrounding areas gathered for a picnic and kick-off celebration on April 19 in Rancho Cordova. This was the first time since Agency Secretary **Roderick Q. Hickman's** 'consolidation' announcement that IT began to bring staff together to discuss the change and elicit support. Approximately half the statewide staff of 400 were able to attend the first kick-off meeting. Other meetings or town hall get togethers are being scheduled to include staff in outlying areas of the state. Enthusiasm was great at this first meeting and staff showed eagerness to participate in the new direction.

More than 200 computer and network specialists who service the various correctional offices and departments under the Youth and

Adult Correctional Agency met to begin the collaborative planning necessary to ensure a smooth transition of the Agency's information technology needs.

To support IT consolidation and other transition efforts, Secretary Hickman sent a letter dated April 18 to the boards and departments served by these IT professionals. The Secretary called for a moratorium on IT requests until all the necessary work to support the pending re-organization is completed.

"Information Technology teams are critical to implementing necessary support services for the new Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, scheduled to change over in July," said Secretary Hickman. "To turn this vision into reality, the restructure and redesign of program areas requires hard work and a collaborative department-wide commitment."

(Please see **IT**, page two)

Susan Wallace Recovering From Assault

Susan Wallace, a former executive officer for the Youthful Offender Parole Board, was brutally attacked in her home on May 7, 2005. While she remains in critical condition and faces a long recovery, her prognosis is excellent. A blood drive has been organized for her. To donate, please call: Nevada City 530-477-1683, Auburn 530-823-0655, or Sacramento, 800-995-4420 to make an appointment for *Account 0120, Susan Wallace*.

For those who would like to send a note, card or email, please contact TeamSusanW@hotmail.com for further information.

Susan's friends and co-workers from throughout YACA send their sincere wishes for her full recovery.

IT...(From page one)

"To say this is a unique opportunity is an understatement," said **Jeff Baldo**, agency information officer. "For more than 40 years, IT has been developing at an incredible rate. Now this State Agency has been given a blank piece of paper and told to go build a network system."

"This allows us to develop those resources we have throughout the State – talented staff that may be able to provide innovative ways for us to improve how we deliver information technology," said Baldo.

Over the next several months, Agency IT resources will be fully engaged, supporting the upcoming program moves as well as their own consolidation (California Youth Authority data center move, etc.) and other centralization efforts.

In addition, IT resources are currently tasked with supporting several key IT initiatives: Business Information Systems, SOMS, Digital High School and infrastructure migration. Finally, a tremendous amount of IT effort is now being expended to support the remediation of multiple lawsuits (e.g., Coleman, Plata, PLO, etc.).

This directive does not impact the reporting of production and operational problems. Employees are asked to continue to report these to the appropriate Help Desk personnel. However, project directors and managers are asked not to initiate any requests for new IT projects until the migration of personnel, data, and equipment has



Leisa Rackelman will be head up IT Governance implementation; Joe Panora, chief information officer, CYA, is heading up the Data Center relocation; Jeff Baldo, YACA deputy secretary for IT, will oversee all transition and IT activities; Dennis Dearbaugh, chief information officer, CDC, is developing a business model; and Merlin Ward is the transition manager.

been completed among the four boards and departments impacted by the reorganization.

According to Baldo, the Agency, and the IT transition committee will use the Agency Strategic Plan and the IT Strategic plan released by State IT Chief Professor **Clark Kelso** and proven industry best practices to guide this effort.

"We pulled out all the requirements from the respective strategic plans, and we came up with about 200 different requirements," Baldo said. "From that, we are driving out what the organization should look like to support the new department's direction."

The anchor for all this is the Agency's mission statement, which focuses on improving public safety and reducing recidivism--through evidence-based strategies. Everything we do must tie back to that."

Baldo noted that while change is difficult, he believes the IT professionals who work behind the scenes at the various boards and departments within YACA will understand their new, even more critical role, once the consolidation is completed. He further emphasized the importance of the IT field staff as key to a successful consolidation.

He said there will be new classifications during this consolidation. However, considering how understaffed the IT units are right now, he believes the organization will need to add at least 150 positions to truly deliver a world-class level of IT organization.

"For the first time we have a chance to develop those resources, but ultimately it is up to us to make that case," Baldo said. "While I have not met everyone, I am already impressed by the work ethic and commitment to excellence in the existing, far flung IT environment. I expect good things and hope those individuals with enthusiasm and innovative ideas step forward and join forces with us during these exciting times." This is an unprecedented effort that IT is undertaking, and we appreciate everyone's support and understanding through the process.

Governor...(From page one)

"Public safety is at the core of all that we do," said **Roderick Q. Hickman**, Secretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency. "This reorganization will allow us to better manage the resources that the State dedicates to protecting the public from criminals who have been sent to prison. It's not the final solution, but it's the first major step toward reforming corrections in California."

The Governor's Reorganization Plan

The reorganization plan establishes the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which includes the Corrections Standards Authority and the Board of Parole Hearings. The new department is vested with the authority and responsibilities of all the entities being abolished.

The BPH's 17 members will be confirmed by the State Senate and serve three-year terms. The BPH will be responsible for the current duties and functions of the BPT, the YAB, and the Narcotic Addict Evaluation Authority.

The new Corrections Standards Au-

thority is also a 17-member body and will take over duties of the abolished Commission of Correctional Peace Officer Standards and Training and those of the Board of Corrections.

The GRP moves all youth programs and operations to a third chief deputy secretary for juvenile facilities with three divisions (facilities, programs, parole operations). It establishes an advisory commission to provide independent oversight, comprehensive planning and coordination of long-term efforts and goals to improve juvenile justice services between state and local communities.

The legislation also adds an assistant secretary of victim and survivor rights and services and an assistant secretary of correctional safety.

Another significant change is the removal of wardens from the Senate confirmation process. Much of the authority and power of wardens for which the Legislature currently has oversight function will now be placed in other positions within the organization making wardens on-site administrators.

A vetting process for the Governor has

been established. Prospective "warden" appointments will go through a process similar to the Judicial Nominee Evaluation process conducted by the Office of Inspector General. OIG would issue a recommendation to the Governor of "qualified" or "not qualified" which would be made public only if the candidate is appointed. The OIG will also review the warden a year after the appointment. Additionally, OIG would inspect and audit every institution every four years. All upper management gubernatorial appointees will require Senate confirmation.

In the area of Board of Parole, all board members are required to have training and experience relevant to their position. Current procedures and policies will remain in place. A firewall is created between youth and adult hearings, while allowing for the combination of the board's administrative functions to attain efficiencies without compromising the public safety implications of each board's decision-making roles.

The plan also requires any en banc parole review to be conducted by a random selection of qualified board members.

The Day After - AG's 2005 Crime Victims' Conference

By **Jonathan Raven**

Deputy Attorney General
Director, Office of Victims' Services

More than 175 crime victims, law enforcement officers, crime victims' advocates and deputy district attorneys attended the Attorney General's 5th Annual Office of Victims' Services Crime Victims' Conference on April 13 in downtown Sacramento. Attendees learned, laughed and cried and did not leave disappointed. One attendee sent this complimentary message the day after the conference. "Jonathan, please pass on to your team my congratulations for an excellent conference yesterday. The speakers were great and the networking was enjoyable. Thanks."

Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** spoke about the hard work of the Office of Victims' Services. Head Deputy **Bill Hodgman** of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office told a stunned audience about the gruesome scene resulting from a celebrity murder case in Los Angeles. He also intrigued us with inside information concerning that trial and other related events leading up to today.

Hodgman passed the baton to **Bruce Harrington** who amazed attendees with the

profound story of his rise from victim to victor. The murder of his brother and sister-in-law sparked passage of Proposition 69, which greatly enhances California's DNA databank and provides prosecutors with a crucial tool to solve crimes. For his efforts, Solano County District Attorney **Dave Paulson** and Napa County District Attorney **Gary Lieberstein** (in absentia) presented him with a magnum bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon inscribed by a Napa County wine owner.

After lunch, Stanislaus Deputy District Attorney **Jim Brazelton** and Peterson trial attorneys **Rick Distaso**, **Dave Harris** and **Birgit Fladager** brought us through the full range of emotions from laughter to sadness to anger.

There was not a dry eye in the audience when they played the video of **Laci's** life accompanied by the song, "I Will Remember You" by **Alanis Morissette**. And, finally, in the late afternoon, nearly all attendees stayed in their seats to hear **Carla Pearson** eloquently and emphatically talk about the DUI homicide of her stepson **Adam**. When the initial deputy district attorney told her this was a misdemeanor case, her response was "wrong."

She knew she had the right deputy to prosecute the case when she asked the newly-assigned prosecutor whether he was good. His response -- the best.

The killer was convicted of 2nd degree murder, but Pearson didn't stop there. She fought— with the assistance of Assembly-member **Nicole Parra**— to pass AB 2173 that was signed into law by Governor **Schwarzenegger** on September 14, 2004. This law gives prosecutors the necessary tool to prosecute for 2nd degree murder those who kill while driving under the influence. The coup de grace was a Senate Resolution presented on behalf of Senator **Joe Dunn** in honor of Crime Victims' Week.

Planning is underway for our 2006 conference. Already scheduled is an Orange County law enforcement team, including a detective and Assistant United States Attorney, who will make the trip to Sacramento to present an eye-opening lecture on predators who roam the Internet looking for children.

They will explore the real world of children, chat rooms and sexual predators. I promise this presentation will be fascinating and very enlightening. See you next year.

Ironwood Prison Veterans' Group Donates \$19,000 to Charity

By **Dale Dorman**

Public Information Officer
Ironwood State Prison

Ironwood State Prison Inmate Veterans' Group presented three checks to two local and one international charity on April 8. The checks totaling \$19,000 were presented during a ceremony at the prison. The Food for the Hungry organization received a check for \$10,000 for Tsunami relief; American Legion Post 57 of Blythe received a check for \$8,000; and the Blythe chapter of the American Legion Auxillary received a check for \$1,000.

The Veterans' Group-Ironwood donated the proceeds from the current Domino Pizza Sale for Tsunami Relief through the generous assistance of Blythe Domino Pizza manager **Wayne Cruisenberry**. The funds donated to the American Legion and American Legion Auxillary were raised during previous fundraisers.

Veterans' Group-Ironwood was formed in 1999. Since its inception, they have



The Ironwood-Inmate Veterans' Organization has donated more than \$150,000 to charitable organizations in six years.

donated more than \$150,000 to various causes including local, national and international organizations.

Veterans' Group-Ironwood has a membership of approximately 125 inmates and each member is committed to the "Service of Others" as well as modeling the

strong character and reliability they learned in the military.

All segments of the Ironwood State Prison population are represented including ethnic and religious groups. Their members include those who have served in the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf wars and other combat operations, as well as those who served during peace time. Several members proudly wear Purple Hearts from their service "under fire."

The group has a banquet annually and guest speakers have ranged from Medal of Honor awardees, Navy Cross and Distinguished Service Cross awardees, general members of each service including active duty and retired, as well as local military recruiters. The late California State Senator **'Pete' Knight**, Colonel (USAF Ret.) of Palmdale, the Marine Aviator of the Year (1968), and the president of the Special Operations Association are some of the past guest speakers. Many local people attend this event to hear the speeches and take part in the festivities.

Research Matters...

The Impact of Parole Policies on Women and Girls

An integrated approach to reentry is vital

By **Barbara E. Bloom, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor
Sonoma State University



Barbara E. Bloom, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Sonoma State University

As an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Administration at Sonoma State University, my research and interests are primarily focused on the incarceration of women and girls. A year ago, I testified before the Little Hoover Commission about parole policies and the need for gender-responsive programs and services for incarcerated females. The following article summarizes my testimony given on April 22, 2004. My comments were primarily drawn from a National Institute of Corrections-sponsored study which I co-authored.

Background

There are approximately 10,000 women incarcerated in California state prisons. Women make up about 6 percent of the total prison population and about 11 percent of the parole population (12,450).

Nearly 70 percent of women incarcerated in California prisons in 2003 were incarcerated for property (33.5 percent), drug (31.1 percent), and other (4.6 percent) offenses. Person offenses accounted for more than half (51.7 percent) of male incarceration and nearly 30 percent for female incarceration in California.

Characteristics of Women Offenders

Women offenders are low income, undereducated and unskilled with sporadic employment histories, and they are disproportionately women of color. Women face life circumstances that tend to be specific to their gender such as:

- Sexual abuse and sexual assault;
- Domestic violence; and
- Responsibility of being the primary caregiver for dependent children.

With few exceptions, correctional systems have been designed to manage the behavior and characteristics of male offenders. Current research has established that women offenders differ from their male counterparts in personal histories and pathways to crime. Differences between male and female offenders have been documented in terms of the following:

- Levels of violence and threats to community safety in their offense patterns;
- Responsibilities for children and other family members;
- Relationships with staff and other offenders;
- Vulnerability to staff misconduct;
- Differences in programming and service needs while under supervision, particularly in terms of health, mental health, substance abuse, trauma recovery and economic/vocational skill; and
- Differences in reentry and community integration.

Barriers Facing Women Returning to Their Communities

Women who are returning to their communities from correctional facilities must comply with conditions of supervised release, achieve financial stability, access health care, locate housing and attempt to reunify with their families. These tasks are often complicated by gender. The majority of women in correctional facilities are mothers. A major consideration for these women is contact and/or reunification with their children. Unfortunately, many women released from prison have lost touch with their families; and consequently, they face greater adjustment problems in reintegration into the community.

The Collateral Consequences of Current Policies

While most of the policy attention has been on the impact of the war on drugs and the corrections system, policy changes in welfare reform and public housing have

combined to create a disparate impact on women drug offenders. Key policy areas affecting women offenders and their children include welfare benefits, drug treatment, housing, education, employment and reunification with children.

Welfare Benefits

Section 115 of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" (TANF), stipulates that persons convicted of a state or federal felony offense involving the use or sale of drugs are subject to a lifetime ban on receiving cash assistance and food stamps. This provision applies only to those who are convicted of a drug offense.

Housing

In 1996, the federal government implemented the "One Strike Initiative," authorizing local Public Housing Authorities (PHA) to obtain from law-enforcement agencies the criminal conviction records of all adult applicants or tenants. Federal housing policies permit (and in some cases require) public housing authorities, Section 8 providers, and other federal assisted housing programs to deny housing to individuals who have a drug conviction or are suspected of drug involvement.

Education and Employment

As mentioned previously, a significant number of women under criminal justice system supervision have a history of low educational attainment. As of 1996, only 52 percent of correctional facilities for women offered postsecondary education. Access to college education was further limited when prisoners were declared ineligible for Pell Grants. Educational opportunities may also be limited by the Higher Education Act of 1998, which denies eligibility for students convicted of drug offenses.

(To be continued.)

Part II of Dr. Bloom's article will appear in the June edition of YACA News.

Barbara E. Bloom, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration at Sonoma State University. Her research and policy interests include women and girls under criminal justice supervision and gender-responsive interventions and services. She can be reached at bloom@sonoma.edu

Prison Industry Authority Dairy Earns Top Milk Quality Award

For the fifth consecutive year, the Prison Industry Authority's dairy at Corcoran State Prison received the top award for milk quality from the Kings County Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

The Corcoran dairy herd was recognized earlier this month for producing milk with the lowest somatic cell count in Kings County for 2004. (The county has more than 100 dairies.) Somatic cell count is one of the industry standards for measuring milk quality (elevated somatic cell counts reduce shelf life and milk flavor). The Corcoran Dairy somatic cell count for 2004 averaged 104,000 cells per milliliter compared to the statewide average of 271,000 cells per milliliter.

"The Prison Industry Authority is pleased to receive this award as it demonstrates our commitment to the quality of our products," said PIA's General Manager **Matt Powers**. "PIA staff at Corcoran are diligently training inmates to develop skills that will assist them in obtaining employment upon release because employed inmates and parolees mean safer prisons and safer communities," he continued.

Corcoran's dairy sells milk to Department of Corrections and Youth Authority facilities, State hospitals, and the State Veterans' Home. In addition to the Corcoran dairy, PIA manages two other

dairy and milk processing operations and one milk-processing enterprise that employ more than 230 inmates. PIA dairy milk processing operations are located at State prisons in Soledad and Tracy, and a milk processing operation in Chino.

PIA is the State organization that provides productive job assignments for inmates in California adult correctional institutions. PIA products and services are available to governmental entities, including federal, state, and local agencies.

PIA operates factories that produce a variety of goods and services including flags, coffee, shoes, printing services, signs, binders, eye wear, office furniture, license plates, clothing, cell equipment, and much more.

PIA has established the Inmate Employability Program that provides training, certification, and job placement assistance, to improve the employability of inmates upon parole.

While PIA work assignments help train inmates to prepare for employment, the program also reduces idleness and decreases violence in the institutions. Court-ordered restitution and fines are deducted from the wages earned by PIA inmates and are transferred to the Crime Victims' Restitution Fund. In fiscal year 2003-2004, more than \$.5 million of PIA inmate earnings were deposited into this fund.

NORCO Plants a Tree for Victims



On April 11, 2005, a tree was planted on the California Rehabilitation Center grounds in honor of Victims' Awareness Week. During the ceremony, Warden (A) **Guillermina Hall** dug the first shovelful followed by Ombudsperson **Sara Malone**. CRC supervisors and administrators witnessed the event.

YACA News

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Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor

Roderick Q. Hickman

Secretary, YACA

J.P. Tremblay

Executive Editor

Nancy Lungren

Todd Slosek

Deputy Executive Editors

Margot Bach

Julio C. Calderon

George N. Kostyrko

Sarah Ludeman

Terry Thornton

Contributors

Gloria Powell-Wells

Marguerite Rylander

Production

Please submit questions, stories and pictures to:
agencynews@corr.ca.gov

Victims' Corner -- Awareness Week a Success

As the 25th Silver Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week held during April 10-16, 2005, came to a close, staff from the Office of Victims' Rights and Survivor Services reflected on the many events hosted by various state, county, and community-based organizations throughout California.

On April 5, prior to NCVRW, several OVSS staff attended an unprecedented event at the **Ronald Reagan** Library in Simi Valley where Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger** honored 130 programs that have provided assistance to victims in California for more than 25 years. The touching victim tributes, the breathtaking views from the library, and the reunion of so many individuals who are committed to protecting the rights of crime victims, made this an occasion to remember and a great start to several activities that would follow in the week ahead.

In addition to participating in institution and parole office events, OVSS staff participated in the March on the Capitol, Attorney General's Conference, Sacramento District Attorney's Community Tribute, MADD awards, Orange County Victim Rights Conference, and the Monterey County Victim Awareness Day.

These occasions provided many opportunities to network with stakeholders and provide outreach to victims.

At California Youth Authority and Department of Corrections institutions and parole offices, victims were honored during activities throughout the week. Essay and art contests, victims' memorial runs, memorial gardens, victims' memorial clothesline projects, and guest speakers raised awareness among wards, inmates, and staff alike.

Fundraising with proceeds being donated to local assistance agencies sparked interest in staff and wards. Special thanks go to: OVSS Restitution Analyst **Jeanne Jackson**, who with the assistance of **Brenda Bollrud** of CDC Regional Accounting, raised more than \$400 for the Sacramento Crisis Nursery.

CYA's Washington Ridge Youth Conservation Camp wards chose to donate their ward benefit fund totaling more than \$8,000 to local domestic violence agencies and crisis centers.

If you would like to know more about these events or ways you can plan for next year's NCVRW, please call **Josie Montano** at (916) 262-1534 or **Jennifer Bawden** at (916) 358-1656.

Auto Class Gives Wards Opportunities

By **Harvey Casillas**
Parole Agent I
Youth Authority

California Youth Authority wards are up to something at N.A. Chaderjian and it's plenty good. Is the noise level too high? Well, put in the earplugs because the noise you're hearing may be from a newly-replaced engine or body work being done on cars in Chad's college level automotive class. Young offenders, who have earned their GED or high school diploma and have shown desire and determination, can enroll in automotive instructor **Alan Lara's** class. These students, who will someday make a lucrative career in automotive repair, have succeeded already in the minds of Gang Information Coordinators **Don Nickerson** and **Bob Galano**. By putting positive behavior — a key element to getting accepted into the class—ahead of anti-social behavior, the students are learning not to waste precious time while incarcerated.

Through the efforts of the Gang Intervention Division at Chaderjian and the willingness of Lara, Superintendent **Steve Kruse**, and Deputy Director **Yvette Marc-Aurele** and other staff, the automotive class was conceived and made a reality. Lara, who is also a faculty member at San Joaquin Delta College, persuaded management that training wards for eventual hire by the automotive industry, or any industry for that matter, is key to preventing recidivism.

On a mission to learn more about the industry and other college-level automotive courses, Lara and CYA staff visited three local community colleges and a consulting group. Their learning process was just the beginning, as their mission took them to the Los Angeles Urban League's automotive training center and a meeting with the vice president of Toyota. (Toyota sponsors training classes throughout the country.) Now visitors to the vocational education shop, including the Governor on his visit in November 2004, can see the level of training that is occurring.

This automotive class provides young offenders with combined hands-on training, classroom instruction that emphasizes safety, and knowledge that helps to build not only marketable skills, but also the confidence needed to succeed in a demanding work environment. The CYA has long trained young offenders for college, trades, even the sports leagues.

Next time you're around Chad, drop by Lara's class held Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and listen to the firing of the pistons or the tires being changed on a car, and talk to a student who has discovered a new passion.

On the Road to Reform

YACA Strategic Planning Update

Milestones from the Governor's Reorganization Plan 2005:

- Strategic Planning Implementation Teams were established to work on the goals, strategies, and objectives outlined in the GRP1 Strategic Plan.
- Outcome measures and performance indicators for each strategic goal area were established.
- Following a Community Stakeholders' Conference, a Community Resource Directory was developed and posted on the YACA's website in April 2005.
- Three functions under the Agency, including Administrative Services (Fiscal Management, Contracts and Business Services, Facilities Management, Human Resources (including training), and Business Information Systems), Civil Rights, and Victim and Survivor Services were consolidated in April.
- An email address was established in April for use by employees as well as the public. Questions and/or suggestions may be sent to suggestionbox@yaca.ca.gov.
- A Victims' Rights conference was held on April 5 to honor Victims' Rights organizations for more than 25 years of continuous service to crime victims.
- A meeting was held on April 20 with the chief deputy wardens, associate wardens, and youth superintendents which focused on the Agency's reform efforts and the strategic planning implementation process. Also discussed was their roles in the "change" process.
- A Governance/Matrix training session was held on April 21-22 for all Agency and department leadership. Since the consolidation of functions has begun, it is critical that staff have a clear understanding of a matrix organization and the role of governance in this type of structure. Dr. **Alan Glassman**, CSU Northridge and Dr. **Chris Worley**, Pepperdine University, are assisting in this transition.
- A Community Collaboration meeting was held on April 28 to focus on the areas of Education, Vocation, and Mentoring.
- The Governor's Reorganization Plan was approved by the Legislature on April 25.
- The Governor signed the GRP legislation, SB737, on May 10, 2005.

TOASTMASTERS WORKS FOR CRC FEMALE INMATES

By **J. B. McGlothlan**
Administrative Assistant
California Rehabilitation Center

Warden (A) **Guillermina Hall** was invited to attend the weekly meeting of the Enchanting Toastmasters Club #722657. This club consists of female inmates housed at California Rehabilitation Center. Hall, along with **Sara Malone**, ombudsperson; **Alicia Cañedo**, chief deputy warden (A); **Regina Dotson**, correctional counselor III; and **Mary Perez**, health program coordinator were all guest judges during this weekly meeting. Ms. Hall was invited to speak from the lectern during the discussion portion of the meeting. Among other topics, she emphasized the value of sharing lessons learned while traveling as a way of

connecting with others. Hall continually encourages programs like Toastmasters that assist inmates' personal development during incarceration and programs that will be beneficial upon their parole.



Improving verbal skills is important in communications. The Toastmasters program also focuses on improving organization of thoughts and speaking in front of groups.

Programs That Work—A CYA Success Story

By **Lisa Dornback**
Program Specialist
Parole Services & Community
Corrections Branch, CYA

Although an abundance of negative media attention has been devoted to the California Youth Authority, stories still surface that reveal the many effective programs that restore and prepare youthful offenders for successful transition back into community life. Such is the story of **Josh Ortega**.

Josh was committed to the CYA as the result of his participation in a tragic crime that occurred early in 1994. Josh, a friend, and a couple of acquaintances decided to do a “beer run,” the youthful crime of grabbing beer from a convenience store and bolting out the door without paying. Little did Josh know as he waited in the car that one of his acquaintances was carrying a hand gun that he fired blindly over his shoulder at the store clerk who was pursuing them down the street. This haphazard shot struck the clerk in the chest, killing him. Josh drove away, unaware that a gun had been fired and a man had died as a result.

Josh was charged and convicted under the “felony murder rule,” a law that is applied to individuals who are party to murder, whether or not they were directly involved in the killing. After three years awaiting trial at Sacramento County Jail, Josh was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 35 years to life. Because of his age, he was sentenced to the CYA as an “M-number lifer,” and was to be transferred to adult prison at the age of 25.

“After three years at the Sacramento County Jail, Youth Authority was great,”

recalls Josh. After intake at the Northern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic, he was placed at the N.A. Chaderjian facility. In a miraculous turn of events, Josh was resentenced in 1999 as a straight Youth Authority commitment and spent the remaining two years of his confinement at DeWitt Nelson. He explains that several key programs at these facilities had a very positive effect on his life.

“I had already decided that I was not going to be a gang member anymore,” relates Josh. “So, I was on the American Dorm at Chad which was a good place to be because it had a much more relaxed atmosphere.”

From Chaderjian, Josh was transferred to DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility where he was placed on several different living units, including a specialized counseling program. Josh participated in a Wounded Inner Child program, Anger Management and other interventions that helped him unravel how his past experiences and unresolved issues had contributed to his commitment offense.

Josh had also undergone a deep spiritual transformation and Chaplain **Carlton McAllister** was a close ally to Josh during the two years he spent at DeWitt Nelson. “They are all my sons, but Joshua was one of my favorite sons,” relates Chaplain McAllister. Chaplain McAllister involved Josh in a process of self-examination in which he identified spiritual strongholds in his life that needed healing, a process that he uses with all YA wards under his care. From there, Chaplain McAllister leads these young men into an understanding of their new identity. “You can’t look at yourself as the same person after you come to Christ,” explains McAllister. He posits that this

understanding releases juvenile offenders from an identity defined by their previous offenses and behaviors.

Josh flourished as a leader within the Chaplain’s Advisory group, an ethnically balanced set of wards who assisted the Chaplain on spiritual issues. “Josh was very culturally aware and respectful of others values and culture. This was a great strength that made him well-respected among the wards,” says McAllister.

Another program that made a significant difference assisting Josh transition back into community life was the Tahoe Dorm work furlough program. Josh became a crew leader in a food warehouse that not only provided him with some real-life work experiences but also allowed him to bank some money that helped support him upon discharge from the CYA. The position of trust he was given in this program helped to reinforce his self-confidence that he could make it on the outside.

Josh was discharged from the CYA in October 2001. Now 28 years old, he is enrolled full time at CSU–Sacramento as a Communications Studies major. He is also employed as the Youth Director for Valley Hi Covenant Church, located in the same neighborhood where he grew up. Josh expects to graduate from Sacramento State next year and is considering either a Master’s Degree or seminary for further study.

When asked what were the most helpful experiences for him at the Youth Authority, Josh explained, “People think you should have a totally hands-off approach when dealing with wards and treat them in a completely impersonal way. This just doesn’t work. I had the most help from staff who were truly interested in me and communicated with me in a down-to-earth way.”

CYA’s Sarah Ludeman -- Selected SIOC’s PIO of the Year 2004



Sarah Ludeman, PIO II
California Youth Authority

CYA’s **Sarah Ludeman** has been named the prestigious State PIO of the Year for 2004 by the State Information Officers Council. In 1985, Sarah joined the CYA’s Free Venture unit and has served the Communications office for 15 years. She deftly handled the continual assault by the press last year (and in ’05) and enjoys promoting our best programs, employees and success stories.

In addition to press releases and conducting tours for reporters and camera persons, she writes and edits for *Staff News* and *YACA News* newsletters. Please join us in congratulating Sarah.

CYA Parolee Accepted at Columbia

Russ Harris, principal of **James A. Weiden High School** at Preston YCF, reports that a former ward was accepted by Columbia University. His career goals are investment banking and politics.

The ward earned his GED and high school diploma while at Preston. The former ward expressed appreciation to teachers **Greg Harris** and **Lynne Clair** for their support and to Assistant Principal **Pat Davis** for her help with the application process.

Congratulations to the student and the staff of James A. Weiden High School.

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



They came from far and near -- State employees who have retired from the California Medical Facility in Vacaville and current employees -- to celebrate the facility's 50th Anniversary on April 13.



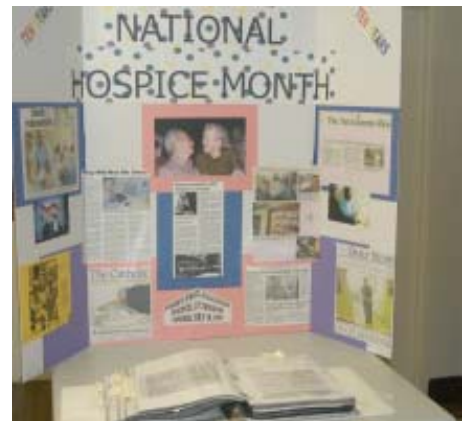
CDC inmate population in 1950 was 16,063. This included the parole population. Today's population is more than 150,000 in the prisons alone.



The visitors were treated to old articles and memorabilia that facilitated "story trading" on their experiences while at the facility. Much has changed over the half-century from the look of the facility to the technology available today to provide inmates the medical care they may need.



Artwork created by inmates was also on display. As always, the pieces that include the quilt at left, were available for sale. The items run from quiltwork to ceramics and oil paintings.



Fire Captain **John Zimmerman** proudly displayed a fire truck during the 50th Anniversary Celebration.



This was also an opportunity to observe the tenth anniversary of National Hospice Month. Hospice services are important to assist patients and their families through the patients' last days.

